

CONDÉ NAST johansens

Luxury Hotels • Spas • Venues

CONDÉ NAST JOHANSENS ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE ANNUAL AMERICAS, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC AWARDS 2016

Friday 11th December 2015, London; *Condé Nast Johansens* is delighted to announce the winners of the annual Americas, Caribbean & Pacific Awards 2016.

SOUTH AMERICA

Best Newcomer – Lake Villas Exclusive Hotel & Spa, Brazil

“The São Paulo smart-set’s retreat of choice to shake off city life, Lake Villas Exclusive Hotel & Spa is a pastoral paradise set in hundreds of acres of private garden (Brazil’s largest). Beautified by palm-fringed natural lakes, white-sand beaches and crystal-clear waterfalls, Lake Villas has to be seen to be believed.”

Best for Romance – Pousada Patacho, Brazil

“Turn off Brazil’s north-east coastal track and take the little-known road to Pousada Patacho. An intimate, rustic-luxe getaway right on the beach, this is THE place to zone out, chill and escape from all the craziness of life.”

Best Villa or Serviced Apartment – Reserva do Ibitipoca, Brazil

“Several hours north of Rio’s teeming city streets is the dreamy Reserva do Ibitipoca; an eco-conscious bolthole in the state of Minas Gerais developed on 40,000 acres of former farmland. Run with irresistible (and contagious) passion for nature, the local community and culture, the Reserva immerses you in its stunning surroundings.”

Best Service – Kenoa – Exclusive Beach & Spa Resort, Brazil

“Kenoa - Exclusive Beach Spa & Resort in the Barra de São Miguel is the ultimate hideaway; a sanctuary to restore, rejuvenate and gain perspective. Set on an icing-sugar white beach along Brazil’s north-east coast, Kenoa is an explosion of cutting-edge design whose use of natural materials, solar energy, artistic panache and clever geometric lines make it a leader in eco-design.”

Best for Families – El Mercado Tunqui, Perú

“Channelling the vibrancy and traditions of its marketplace origins, the boutique El Mercado Tunqui is at the pulsing heart of Perú's Historical Capital, Cusco. As the UNESCO-protected capital of the Inca Empire, Cusco is known to many as the beginning of their Inca Trail experience and here, at El Mercado Tunqui, this once-in-a-lifetime journey begins in spirited style.”

Best Value – Rancho do Peixe, Brazil

“For cashmere-soft sand between your toes and warm wind through your hair, head to Preá beach on Brazil's north-east coast. This is where you'll find the 22 deluxe bungalows of Rancho do Peixe built from reforested wood and indigenous carnauba straw.”

Best Dining Experience – Tcherassi Hotel + Spa, Colombia

“Colonial heritage embodies the 250-year-old walls of Tcherassi Hotel + Spa, Cartagena. The exposed stone-walled restaurant and lounge, VERA, brings Italian coastal cuisine to Cartagena alongside some Colombian classics. Highly-acclaimed Chef Daniel Castaño prepares the mouth-watering dishes here, while next door, cocktails and drinks are served with precision in AQUABAR.”

Best Hotel with Spa – Entremonte Wellness Hotel & Spa, Colombia

“Get back to nature at Entremonte, Colombia's first dedicated wellness hotel and spa in the foothills of the Apulo mountains. An incredibly serene and overwhelmingly beautiful part of the world, there's no sign of civilisation for miles here, except for Entremonte's 29 thatched, rustic cottage suites with private gardens and pools.”

Best Waterside Hotel – Delfin Amazon Cruises, Perú

“Venturing into deepest, darkest Perú, Delfin Amazon Cruises offers an experience like no other. Created by husband and wife team Aldo and Lissy, their two boutique cruise ships meander along the Amazon providing an insight into the ecological wonder of Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve: one of Perú's largest protected areas of flooded rain forest.”

Best Countryside Hotel (or Lodge) – La Hacienda Inn and Restaurant, Brazil

“It's hard to imagine a more idyllic setting than the one that greets you at La Hacienda Inn and Restaurant in Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul. Eight miles from the mountain town of Gramado, it's picturesque and utterly peaceful; a place of hills, woodlands, lakes, streams and sweeping gardens.”

Best Urban Hotel – Swissôtel Lima, Perú

“The towering Swissôtel Lima is a titan of contemporary comfort in Lima's upscale San Isidro district, an area attracting business types and tourists alike for its modern vibe. It's in the thrumming centre of the capital's cultural and financial

neighbourhood with no less than 345 guest rooms and suites spanning across 18 floors.”

Best Green Hotel – Merecumbé Hotel, Colombia

“Revelling in nature's beauty, Merecumbé Hotel offers a rare opportunity to experience Colombia's ancient culture and landscape. Committed to preserving the wild surrounds and local culture, there's a strict eco ethos here, which means no TVs and no air-con. But don't fret, each of the 11 "ecohab" cabanas are utterly comfortable, minimalist wooden structures with palm roofs and living rooms, uniquely designed with surprisingly luxurious, intimate interiors that lead to private decks and hammocks.”

Best for Weddings, Parties or Special Events – Hotel Unique, Brazil

“There's nothing standard and nothing subdued about Hotel Unique. João Armentano's interiors are whimsical and wonderful, from the reception - a lofty, light-flooded atrium strewn with sofas and modern art - to the trendy lobby bar whose centrepiece is a black, 18-metre high wall bedecked with rows of artfully placed bottles.”

THE CARIBBEAN

Best Newcomer – Nanuku Auberge Resort, Fiji Islands

“Hugging the shoreline of Viti Levu's southern coast, Nanuku Auberge Resort is Fiji's first mainland luxury resort. This breathtaking setting is a picture that stays with you long after you leave and there's nowhere more impressive for the event of a lifetime.”

Best for Romance – Meliá Buenavista All Inclusive, The Level & Spa, Cuba

“A Caribbean fantasy come true, Meliá Buenavista All Inclusive, The Level & Spa basks in the sunny Jardines del Rey archipelago, just off Cuba's north coast. An adults-only, all-inclusive island escape, The Level service experience means personalised, VIP treatment from the moment you're driven from the airport.”

Best Service – Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada

“Grand Anse beach in Grenada is the ultimate Caribbean fantasy: powdery white sand shaded by leaning palm trees looking across to crystal clear ocean vistas. And the family-run Spice Island Beach Resort completes the heavenly picture. Owned by Sir Royston Hopkin, KCMG, his wife Lady Betty and their children, you're instantly adopted as a member of the brood, which makes a stay here genuinely special.”

Best for Exclusive Use (House, Villa or Luxury Apartment) – Sheriva, Luxury Villas & Suites, Anguilla

“This is the ideal escape for those seeking the privacy of villa accommodation with all the amenities of an exclusive Caribbean hotel. Located on West End beach in Anguilla with a panoramic view of St Martin, Cove Bay and the sea, each of

Sheriva's villas (Villa Mustique, Villa Harmony and Villa Infinity) is a winning mix of understated Caribbean elegance and contemporary panache."

Best for Families – The St. Regis Bahia Beach Resort, Puerto Rico

"Flanked by tropical vegetation and the white sands of Bahia beach, The St. Regis Bahia Beach resides within an old coconut plantation at the foot of El Yunque National Forest. Families love it here, especially the Iguana Children's Club whose eco-adventures such as feeding baby turtles and forest walks keep the children amused while parents enjoy golf, water sports, bird-watching tours and kayaking along the Espírito Santo."

Best Value – Galley Bay Resort & Spa, Antigua

"On the phenomenally beautiful west coast of Antigua is the adults-only, all-inclusive Galley Bay Resort & Spa. Somewhere to hide away from the real world, this is a romantic Caribbean refuge with an eco-friendly conscience."

Best Dining Experience – Cap Juluca, Anguilla

"Alongside the powder-puff sand of Anguilla's Maundays Bay, Cap Juluca encapsulates all that's great about the Caribbean. Guests gather in the waterfront Main House for afternoon tea followed by cocktails at sunset, while Pimms signature restaurant and the Moroccan-inspired Spice dish up very different but equally tasty fare."

Best Hotel with Spa – Carlisle Bay, Antigua

"Antigua's south coast is a Caribbean dreamscape where fiercely beautiful beaches border luminous green rain forest. Offering endless facilities, everyone's wishes are taken care of here and due to the resort's subtle division into two areas - one for families and one for couples - lovebirds are guaranteed peace and privacy."

Best Waterside Hotel – Grace Bay Club, Turks & Caicos Islands

"The island of Providenciales in Turks & Caicos is a fantasy Caribbean idyll. Regularly appearing on the "top," "ultimate" and "best" beach lists of the world, its heavenly pearl-white patch of Grace Bay beach is unquestionably a piece of natural perfection."

Best Green Hotel – Secret Bay, Dominica

"Hidden away, perched on the cliff tops and overlooking the teal-blue of the Caribbean Sea, this is a honeymoon favourite, adventure playground and luxury getaway with a difference. Secret Bay is sustainable through-and-through, designed to minimise any impact on the unspoilt surrounding environment."

Best for Meetings – Casa de Campo Resort & Villas, Dominican Republic

"Casa de Campo is more of a lifestyle than a resort. Spread across 7,000 acres of a former sugar plantation in the Dominican Republic's southeast corner, every inch of this leisure playground is dedicated to sports, activities and entertainment."

Best for Weddings, Parties or Special Events – Eden Roc at Cap Cana, Dominican Republic

“Within the private confines of Cap Cana holiday resort, eco sanctuary and marina, Eden Roc at Cap Cana is a breath of fresh air to the Dominican Republic hotel scene. A five-star belter with a boutique frame of mind, its beautifully manicured gardens are so perfect you'll think they're attended each morning with nail scissors; the interiors are so glam and full of stylish panache you're momentarily transported to the elegant Riviera.”

Best Villa or Serviced Apartment – Laluna Villas, Grenada

“A romantic beach escape, yoga retreat and all-round Caribbean treasure, Laluna faces a blissful beachy scene on the south-western corner of Grenada. Laluna Estate consists of Laluna beach resort and Laluna villas but it's the two private villas that really stand out in luxury.”

CANADA, USA, MÉXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA

Best Newcomer – The St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort, USA

“Attracting the well-heeled, bright, young and beautiful, The St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort is a reflection of its Gold Coast location: glamour with a capital “G.” Presiding over the Atlantic from three awesome glass towers, the enormity of The St. Regis affords choice and opportunities for each guest to enjoy the holiday they want.”

Best for Romance – Matachica Resort & Spa, Belize

“The funky Matachica Resort & Spa is paradise found specialising in romance. Reached by a short boat ride from San Pedro, a thatched-roof slice of beach-side seclusion attended by professional staff awaits.”

Best Service – Cayo Espanto a private island, Belize

“There's only one way to arrive at Cayo Espanto a private island: by helicopter. Okay, that's not strictly true, you can take a boat. But a chopper touchdown sets the perfect (princely) tone for this private island paradise, three miles off the coast of Belize.”

Best Villa or Serviced Apartment – Villa Punto de Vista, Costa Rica

“Available on an exclusive-use basis only with accommodation for 12 to 27 residents and a capacity for 100 event guests, this extraordinary five-storey, fully-staffed, 10-bedroom private villa is seriously impressive. Soaring above the rain forest and Manuel Antonio Bay, it's somewhere for the whole family, a group of colleagues, friends, adventurers of all ages and nature lovers to celebrate a special event, wedding, work and play.”

Best for Families – Villa María Cristina, México

“Villa María Cristina in Guanajuato is a luxurious design hotel with a distinct European flavour. A short walk from the city's madding crowds, Villa María Cristina is a colonial throwback where walls and tiles blush with pink and classically arranged suites frame a courtyard that looks toward La Bufa Hill.”

Best Value – The Phoenix Resort, Belize

“Young, dynamic and professional New Yorker-turned-Belizean Mark Maggioto runs the vibrant and friendly Phoenix Resort in San Pedro. Close to the town's nightlife, bars, restaurants and shops, you're in the thick of it here, where you can be as adventurous or downright sluggish as you like.”

Best Dining Experience – Inn On Fifth, USA

“Life on Fifth Avenue South, downtown Naples, Florida, is golden and its prize-winning nugget is the Inn On Fifth. In addition to the Inn On Fifth's refined 119 rooms and suites, Feng Shui spa, rooftop terrace with pool and 32 Club Level Suites, there's also fine dining at Truluck's Seafood Steak and Crabhouse - whose Florida stone crab is unbeatable - and the newly opened Avenue5, which is the rising star of Naples' upscale restaurant scene.”

Best Hotel with Spa – Garza Blanca Preserve Resort & Spa, México

“Life's pretty sweet when the Pacific Ocean faces you in one direction and the Sierra Madre mountains embrace you from the other. Even sweeter when Garza Blanca Preserve Resort & Spa is where you rest your head. Located minutes from the cosmopolitan Puerto Vallarta, Garza Blanca ramps up the glam stakes on the south shore in a fertile wilderness preserve.”

Best Waterside Hotel – El Mangroove, Costa Rica

“Panama beach in Costa Rica's north-west corner is home to the hipster's hangout of choice: El Mangroove. More luxurious beach boutique hotel than big beach resort despite its 85 suites, El Mangroove opened in February 2014 and has become known as THE place to be and be seen.”

Best Lodge or Countryside Hotel – Belcampo Lodge Belize

“They don't need alarm clocks at Belcampo Lodge. Howler monkeys are the wake-up call at this luxe eco-retreat cocooned in Belize's lush, dense jungle with the Maya mountains to the west and the Caribbean Sea to the east.”

Best Urban Hotel – OPUS Vancouver, Canada

“Bright, bold and brazenly glam, OPUS Vancouver is THE place to hang out, kick back and embrace the fashionable jet set lifestyle. Situated where warehouses and rail yards once dominated the city, marinas, parks and Heritage-listed conversions now make Yaletown the trendy neighbourhood it is today.”

Best Green Hotel – The Stanford Inn By The Sea, USA

“Experience a laid-back Californian vibe at The Stanford Inn By The Sea, Mendocino, and get a taste for the salty Pacific air and seriously delicious vegan food. It's all about healthy, sustainable living at The Stanford Inn, however, its eco-lodge credentials don't mean you miss out on luxury.”

Best for Meetings – Reserva Conchal Beach Resort, Golf & Spa, Costa Rica

“Somewhere between paradise and perfection there's Reserva Conchal Beach Resort, Golf & Spa. With Costa Rica's tropical rain forests on one side and the sparkling blue of the Pacific on the other, this mighty resort happens to be one of the most discreet, luxurious and stylish retreats around.”

Best for Weddings, Parties or Special Events – Shangri-La Hotel, Toronto, Canada

“Design-led, downtown and very grown-up, Shangri-La Hotel, Toronto occupies 17 floors of a 66-storey tower alongside downtown's historic (1830s neighbourhood) Bishops Block. Shangri-La's swing-a-Samsonite-spacious rooms and suites are drenched in light with floor-to-ceiling windows of spectacular cityscapes dressed in neutral tones, natural furnishings, dark wood and plush leather sofas.”

Best Small Property suitable for exclusive use – Casa Azul, México

“Stately elegance is the order of the day at Casa Azul. A vibrantly painted blue mansion (officially a Historic Monument), just off Mérida's smartest avenue of Paseo de Montejo, it was built in the 19th century to embody the wealth and prosperity of its time. Mission accomplished.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The Awards are based on responses from online voting, guest feedback, and Local Expert reports drawn from the hotels and spas featured in our most recent Guides.

Condé Nast Johansens, from the publishers of *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Condé Nast Traveller* and *Glamour*, is the premier reference guide for independent travellers. *Condé Nast Johansens* remains the most comprehensive illustrated reference to independently owned hotels inspected annually. With dedicated and highly trained Local Experts, almost 10 times as many properties have been assessed as appear online or in the Guides in order to narrow the final selection down to the best selection of accommodation for independent travellers. With a readership of 5.5 million across all platforms, the Guides' distribution now totals 28,500 worldwide.

For further information please visit condenastjohansens.com or contact Harriet Robertson, Richard Pickard or Olivia Petter in the Condé Nast press office on +44 (0)20 7152 3388/3474/3807.